

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:
(with complete listing)

1. (Currently amended) A gripping and locking electrical grounding device for grounding single phase or multiphase electrical equipment to a ground ~~bus~~ buss to render the electrical equipment safe for servicing and repair, comprising:

at least one phase conductor;

a ground conductor being coupled to said at least one phase conductor; and

a gripping and locking clamp device (80) being coupled with each of said plurality of phase conductors and said ground conductor and having a fixed jaw (90) and a fixed handle assembly (102) and a moveable jaw (92) being pivotally connected with said fixed jaw and a locking handle assembly (94) and being pivotally moveable between an unlocking position permitting opening movement of said moveable jaw relative to said fixed jaw and a locking position securing said moveable jaw at a clamping position;

said gripping and locking clamp device further characterized by including an adjustment device (104) longitudinally received into a distal end of said fixed handle assembly, an adjustment link (100) having a first end pivotally coupled to said moveable jaw and a second end received in a portion of said fixed handle assembly and abutting said adjustment device, a first locking opening formed through said locking handle assembly, and a second locking opening formed through said adjustment link, wherein

said adjustment device and said adjustment link cooperate to limit the maximum distance between said fixed jaw and said moveable jaw in said locking position, and

said first and said second openings are in general alignment when said gripping and locking clamp device is in said locking position such that ~~and relatively moveable locking components each defining lock openings that become positioned in registry when said locking handle is located at said locking position; and a lock device being~~ may be inserted

through said first and second ~~registered~~ lock openings ~~and to prevent preventing~~ unlocking movement of said locking handle and thus maintaining positive clamping of said locking clamp device with respect to said at least one phase lead and said ground bus ~~buss~~ and maintaining the electrical equipment in safe grounded condition for servicing and repair operations.

2. (Original) The gripping and locking electrical grounding device of claim 1, comprising:

said lock device being the U-shaped locking element of a pad-lock.

3. (Original) The gripping and locking electrical grounding device of claim 1, comprising:

said lock device being an elongate member extending through said aligned lock openings and being locked against unauthorized removal.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The gripping and locking electrical grounding device of claim 4, ~~comprising: 1, wherein:~~

said adjustment ~~locking-link is of the locking clamp device being a toggle-link~~ pivotally connected with said locking handle; and

said an ~~adjustment device is being-mounted~~ to said fixed jaw and handle assembly, has adjustable ~~and having adjustment engagement~~ with said adjustment ~~toggle-link~~ and is ~~being-moveable~~ relative to said fixed jaw and handle assembly, ~~for adjusting the position of said moveable jaw at the locked position of said locking handle.~~

6. (Original) The gripping and locking electrical grounding device of claim 1, comprising:

said lock device being the locking element of a lock having a lock body and being capable locking and unlocking conditions with respect to said lock body.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) A gripping and locking electrical grounding device for grounding single phase or multiphase electrical equipment to a ground ~~bus~~ buss to render the electrical equipment to grounded condition and safe for servicing and repair, comprising:

a plurality of phase conductors;

a ground conductor being coupled to each of said plurality of phase conductors; and

a plurality of gripping and locking clamp devices (80) being positioned in mechanically gripping and electrically coupled with each of said plurality of phase conductors and said ground conductor, each of said gripping and locking clamp devices having a fixed jaw (90) and a fixed handle assembly (102) and a moveable jaw (92) being pivotally connected with said fixed jaw and a locking handle assembly (94) and being pivotally moveable between an unlocking position permitting opening movement of said moveable jaw relative to said fixed jaw and a locking position securing said moveable jaw at a clamping position;

each of said plurality of gripping and locking clamp device further characterized by including an adjustment device (104) longitudinally received into a distal end of said fixed handle assembly, an adjustment link (100) having a first end pivotally coupled to said moveable jaw and a second end received in a portion of said fixed handle assembly and abutting said adjustment device, a first locking opening formed through said locking handle assembly, and a second locking opening formed through said adjustment link, wherein

said adjustment device and said adjustment link cooperate to limit the maximum distance between said fixed jaw and said moveable jaw in said locking position, and

said first and said second openings are in general alignment when said gripping and locking clamp device is in said locking position such that and relatively moveable locking components each defining lock openings that become positioned in registry when said locking handle is located at said locking position; and a lock device being may be inserted through said first and second registered lock openings and to prevent preventing unlocking movement of said locking handle and thus maintaining positive clamping of said locking clamp device with respect to said at least one phase lead and said ground bus buss and maintaining the electrical equipment in safe grounded condition for servicing and repair operations.

9. (Original) The gripping and locking electrical grounding device of claim 8, comprising:

said lock device being the U-shaped locking element of a pad-lock.

10. (Original) The gripping and locking electrical grounding device of claim 8, comprising:

said lock device being an elongate member extending through said aligned lock openings and being locked against unauthorized removal.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The gripping and locking electrical grounding device of claim 8, wherein ~~11, comprising:~~ each of said plurality of gripping and locking clamp devices is further characterized by:

said an adjustment locking link is of the locking clamp device being a toggle link pivotally connected with said locking handle; and

said an adjustment device is being mounted to said fixed jaw and handle assembly, has adjustable and having adjustment engagement with said adjustment toggle link and is

~~being moveable relative to said fixed jaw and handle assembly, for adjusting the position of said moveable jaw at the locked position of said locking handle.~~

13. (Original) The gripping and locking electrical grounding device of claim 8, comprising:

said lock device being the locking element of a lock having a lock body and being capable locking and unlocking conditions with respect to said lock body.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) A method for grounding a piece of electrical equipment for safety comprising the steps of:

connecting a first end of a flexible electrical conductor to a non-clamping portion of an electrically conductive clamping device;

connecting a second end of said flexible electrical conductor to a ground;

clamping said electrically conductive clamping device to said piece of electrical equipment; and

securing said electrically conductive clamping device in a clamped position on said piece of electrical equipment with a padlock to prevent unauthorized removal of said clamping device from said piece of electrical equipment.

16. (New) The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

connecting first ends of a plurality of flexible electrical conductors to non-clamping portions of a plurality of electrically conductive clamping devices;

connecting second ends of said plurality of flexible electrical conductors to said ground;

clamping a first of said plurality of clamping devices to a first phase power conductor of said piece of electrical equipment;

clamping a second of said plurality of clamping devices to a second phase power conductor of said piece of electrical equipment; and

locking said first and second of said plurality of clamping devices in clamped positions with first and second padlocks, respectively, to prevent unauthorized unclamping of said first and second clamping devices.

17. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein:

said clamping device comprises locking pliers having first and second lock openings formed therein which become aligned only when said clamping device is in a clamped position.

18. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein:

said electrical conductor is characterized by high ampacity.